

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT[281]

Notice of Intended Action

Twenty-five interested persons, a governmental subdivision, an agency or association of 25 or more persons may demand an oral presentation hereon as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b.”

Notice is also given to the public that the Administrative Rules Review Committee may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this proposed action under section 17A.8(6) at a regular or special meeting where the public or interested persons may be heard.

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 256.7(5), the State Board of Education hereby proposes to amend Chapter 32, “High School Equivalency Diploma,” Iowa Administrative Code.

The proposed amendment in Item 1 reflects a new test series from the General Educational Development Testing Service that changed the scoring of the tests. The proposed amendments in Items 2 to 4 reflect the provisions in Iowa Code section 259A.2 and the enactment of 2011 Iowa Acts, Senate File 470, section 7, both of which authorize the State Board of Education to establish by rule the amount of fees. The fees have not been raised in over 20 years.

An agencywide waiver provision is provided in 281—Chapter 4.

Interested individuals may make written comments on the proposed amendments on or before September 13, 2011, at 4:30 p.m. Comments on the proposed amendments should be directed to Carol Greta, Office of the Director, Iowa Department of Education, Second Floor, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146; telephone (515)281-8661; E-mail carol.greta@iowa.gov; or fax (515)281-4122.

A public hearing will be held on September 13, 2011, from 1 to 2 p.m. in the State Board Room, Second Floor, Grimes State Office Building, East 14th Street and Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, at which time persons may present their views either orally or in writing. Any persons who intend to attend the public hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should advise the Department of Education of specific needs by calling (515)281-3125.

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 259A as amended by 2011 Iowa Acts, Senate File 470, section 7.

The following amendments are proposed.

ITEM 1. Amend rule 281—32.3(259A) as follows:

281—32.3(259A) Minimum score. Applicants shall make a minimum standard score of ~~35~~ 410 on each test and an average standard score of ~~45~~ 450 on all five of the General Educational Development Tests.

ITEM 2. Amend rule 281—32.5(259A), introductory paragraph, as follows:

281—32.5(259A) Retest. Any applicant not achieving the minimum standard test scores as defined in rule 281—32.3(259A), upon payment of a ~~\$5~~ \$10 fee, shall be permitted to make application for retest and scoring of the retest, provided that one of the following conditions is met:

ITEM 3. Amend rule 281—32.6(259A) as follows:

281—32.6(259A) Application fee. The applicant or supporting agency shall pay an application fee of ~~\$20~~ \$25. This fee shall be paid to the official Iowa General Educational Development Testing Agency and shall allow for initial testing and scoring of the initial testing of the eligible candidate with the five General Educational Development Tests.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 259A.2 and 259A.5.

ITEM 4. Adopt the following new rule 281—32.7(259A):

281—32.7(259A) Diploma, transcript, verification fees. Upon payment of \$10 to the Iowa department of education, the department shall prepare and issue a high school equivalency diploma to an applicant who has achieved the minimum and average scores established in rule 281—32.3(259A). Upon payment of \$10 to the Iowa department of education, the department shall prepare and issue a copy of an applicant's transcript to the applicant or person authorized by the applicant to request the transcript. Upon payment of \$10 to the Iowa department of education, the department shall prepare and issue a verification that an applicant has earned a high school equivalency diploma to the applicant or person authorized by the applicant to request the verification.